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Progress report on the prevention of armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

One of the chief obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations is the prevention of conflict, and the primary responsibility for it belongs to national Governments. Since 2001, when I issued my first report on conflict prevention, there has been important normative, political and institutional progress, most notably in the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 55/281 and 57/337, Security Council resolution 1366 (2001) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. This second comprehensive report is prepared in response to those resolutions.

A culture of prevention is beginning to take hold at the United Nations, and considerable progress has been made at both the international and the national levels, with new tools and mechanisms being developed all the time. An unacceptable gap remains, however, between rhetoric and reality. To discern why, the present report moves from a focus on mandates to a deeper awareness of what we are trying to prevent and how we must go about it. It examines the potential for preventive action at several levels, looking at both operational and structural prevention and introducing a third sphere of action, namely, systemic prevention, which refers to measures to address global risk of conflict that transcend particular States. The report also examines how we can strengthen the norms and institutions that make armed conflict less viable and less likely.

* The present report was prepared after broad consultations with a wide range of actors working on the prevention of armed conflict.

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As we come to terms with the complex nature of effective preventive action, it becomes clear that no State or organization can act alone. Sovereign Governments, while fully accountable for maintaining peace within their borders, must be able to rely on the support of external actors whose activities can be crucial in helping to prevent conflict. The report draws attention to the contributions such actors can make. In fulfilment of General Assembly resolution 57/337, the report also reviews how United Nations capacity has been enhanced and what gaps need to be addressed so that the Organization can better fulfil its preventive mission.

The report concludes with a number of important recommendations. These include suggestions for addressing systemic sources of tension and strengthening global norms and institutions for peace. Proposals for actions at the country level seek to reduce specific risk factors and are aimed at enhancing national infrastructures of peace. Additional recommendations focus on the importance of all relevant players acting in concert. Finally, the report offers some recommendations on how to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its mandate in the area of conflict prevention.

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I. Introduction

1. This is my second comprehensive report on the prevention of armed conflict, prepared in response to General Assembly resolutions 55/281 and 57/337, as well as Security Council resolution 1366 (2001). This report fulfils my remaining reporting obligations stemming from these resolutions and provides information on the implementation of resolution 57/337, including the mandated capacity review of the United Nations system with respect to prevention. In September 2003 I submitted an interim report on the prevention of armed conflict fulfilling the reporting requirements of resolutions 55/281 and 56/512.

2. My first comprehensive report on this subject (A/55/985-S/2001/574 and Corr.1) recognized that conflict prevention is one of the chief obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that primary responsibility belongs to national Governments. The report made clear that national sovereignty is strengthened by early action to prevent armed conflict because such action obviates the need for unwelcome external interference later on. The report also exhorted the United Nations system — many constituent parts of which have an important role to play — to move from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention.

3. I note with satisfaction that a culture of prevention is indeed beginning to take hold at the United Nations. Since 2001, there has been important normative, political and institutional progress on this matter, most notably in the adoption of the resolutions mentioned above and Security Council resolution 1625 (2005) on strengthening the effectiveness of the Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), Member States solemnly renewed their commitment to promote a culture of prevention of armed conflicts as a means of effectively addressing the interconnected security and development challenges faced by peoples throughout the world, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for the prevention of armed conflict. There is even some evidence to suggest that the overall trend in the number and severity of armed conflicts worldwide is decreasing and that this can be attributed in large measure to an upsurge of international activism in the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Some Member States have also begun to advance the indispensable notion of national infrastructures of peace and to clarify what external support is needed. Moreover, the United Nations system has developed important tools and mechanisms to work cooperatively in conflict prevention, on which I will provide more detail below.

4. An unacceptable gap remains between rhetoric and reality in the area of conflict prevention. The time has come to ask some hard questions about why this gap has proved so difficult to bridge. What more can we do to bridge it? In 2001, mindful of the enormous regional consequences of our failure as an international community to avert genocide in Rwanda, I noted that we had an obligation to the victims of violence in that country and elsewhere to rise to the challenge of prevention. Too often the international community spends vast sums of money to fight fires that, in hindsight, we might more easily have extinguished with timely preventive action before so many lives were lost or turned upside down. Over the last five years, we have spent over $18 billion on United Nations peacekeeping that was necessary partly because of inadequate preventive measures. A fraction of that investment in preventive action would surely have saved both lives and money. So,

5. To that end, in this report I want to move our debate from a focus on mandates and responsibilities to a deeper awareness of what we are trying to prevent and how we must go about it. To prevent armed conflicts we must understand their origins and seek to make violence a less reasonable option. We must also take care that preventive action does not ignore the underlying injustices or motivations that caused people to take up arms. Violence finds followers when people lack alternatives and feel voiceless. Our dual challenge is to address or diminish the sources of tension for society and to strengthen the institutions that give it the ability to channel conflict non-violently and to allow for dialogue.

6. These principles most evidently apply to intra-State and transnational conflicts, which make up the bulk of wars in the last several decades, but they are equally valid for preventing inter-State disputes. Going to war must be made as unattractive an option as possible, while mechanisms for peacefully resolving disputes and laying the ground for ongoing dialogue in which all stakeholders have a voice must be made more appealing and more accessible.

7. In the case of both intra- and inter-State armed conflict, the key is to equip States and societies to manage their own problems in ways that are most appropriate to them. If we are to enhance the impact of our efforts and address the root causes of conflict, the thrust of preventive work must shift — as indeed it has begun to do — from reactive, external interventions with limited and ultimately superficial impact to internally driven initiatives for developing local and national capacities for prevention. This approach fosters home-grown, self-sustaining infrastructures for peace. Its aim is to develop the capacity in societies to resolve disputes in internally acceptable ways, reaching a wide constellation of actors in government and civil society. It should be complemented by broader development programming that is sensitive to conflict dynamics. External support for such efforts must be informed by an understanding of the countries and societal dynamics concerned.

8. This structural approach must be complemented by action at other levels, both globally and nationally. In my 2001 report I introduced the distinction between structural and operational prevention. The latter refers to measures applicable in the face of immediate crisis, and the former consists of measures to ensure that crises do not arise in the first place and, if they do, that they do not recur. While acknowledging that such distinctions do not always completely hold in reality, I nevertheless find them useful conceptual tools. In this report I would like to introduce a third sphere of preventive action, namely, systemic prevention. Systemic prevention refers to measures to address global risk of conflict that transcend particular States. For example, global initiatives to reduce the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, to tackle environmental degradation, to regulate industries that are known to fuel conflict and to advance the global development agenda not only are important in and of themselves but also serve to reduce vulnerability to armed conflict. Combined with ongoing, country-specific structural and operational preventive measures, systemic initiatives further bolster the chances of peace.

9. By more consciously situating our actions at the systemic level as contributing to (or detracting from) conflict prevention, we are following through on the important and stark message from the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, which issued its seminal report "A more secure world: our shared responsibility" in December 2004 (see A/59/565 and Corr.1). The Panel underlined our mutual vulnerability to six clusters of interconnected threats, which could be

addressed only collectively. It also emphasized the importance of addressing those threats early and in ways that resonate most in the different parts of the world. Finally, the Panel highlighted development as "the indispensable foundation of a collective security system that takes prevention seriously" (A/59/565, synopsis, twelfth para.). I bore these messages in mind in the preparation of the present report, and I urge all Member States to do the same as they read and debate its contents.

10. That prevention is clearly a shared responsibility does not, however, diminish the primary obligation of Member States to exercise their sovereign duties to their citizens and neighbours. Many of the aspirations elaborated in the present report pertain to all societies and all Member States. No society can claim full immunity from tensions that have the potential to turn violent. There are many ways that Governments, supported by the international community, can work to minimize the potential for armed conflict. This report identifies many such opportunities and encourages all concerned to make use of the assistance that is available.

11. In section II, the present report looks at actual and potential ways to address the sources of tension that make States, societies and, indeed, entire regions more vulnerable to armed conflict. In doing so, it distinguishes between actions at the systemic, structural and operational levels, making clear that we must be active at all those levels simultaneously to stand the best chance of making a difference. The report then turns in section III to how we can strengthen the norms and institutions that make armed conflict less viable and less likely. There is a good deal of progress to report in this area, which is heartening, but there is also a lot more to be done internationally, regionally and nationally. The same is true of the institutions that exist to allow for the peaceful settlement of inter-State disputes, which is the focus of section IV. While the activities and mechanisms described in sections II to IV are among the most prominent or important, they do not represent an exhaustive list of all possible options, but rather serve to illustrate the many ways in which prevention can be advanced.

12. Sections V and VI of the present report draw attention to the many actors that can contribute to effective preventive action. First and foremost, individual sovereign Governments remain fully accountable for maintaining peace within their borders. But they are not alone. They can and must be able to rely on the support of external actors whose activities can be crucial in preventing conflict, from the United Nations and other international and regional organizations to the private sector and civil society. The contribution such actors can make, and the importance of their acting in concert with the Government concerned and with each other to take timely preventive action, is the focus of section V. In fulfilment of General Assembly resolution 57/337, section VI looks specifically at how United Nations capacity has been and continues to be enhanced so that the Organization can better fulfil its preventive mission.

13. Finally, I conclude the report with a small number of important recommendations. These include suggestions for addressing systemic sources of tension and strengthening global norms and institutions for peace. I also make recommendations for actions at the country level that will similarly reduce risk factors and enhance national infrastructures of peace. Additional recommendations focus on the importance of all relevant players acting in concert, and I close with a series of recommendations pertaining to the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its mandate in the area of conflict prevention.

II. Addressing sources of tension within and between societies, States and regions

14. Societies under duress become more vulnerable across the board. A country ravaged by HIV/AIDS suffers an enormous depletion of its people and its workforce, with incalculable consequences for governance and institutions. A society where unemployment is high and where young people feel alienated and excluded from opportunity becomes a fertile breeding ground for politically and criminally violent groups. Poverty combined with ethnic or regional discrimination is a recipe for unrest. Economic overdependence on the extraction and export of primary commodities is highly correlated with corruption and political tension.

A. Systemic actions to address sources of tension

15. The most effective way to prevent crisis is to reduce the impact of risk factors. Some of the main sources of societal tension can be and are being addressed at the systemic, global level. These include, for instance, international efforts to regulate trade in resources that fuel conflict, such as diamonds; attempts to stem illicit flows of small arms and light weapons and the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; efforts to combat narcotics cultivation, trafficking and addiction; action against HIV/AIDS; and steps to reduce environmental degradation, with its associated economic and political fallout. Many of these endeavours include international regulatory frameworks and the building of national capacities.

16. Backsliding and atrocities in several African conflicts, notably those in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in recent years, drew international attention to the problem of extractive natural resources and war economies. The looting of commodities such as diamonds, coltan and timber was found to be an important source of revenue for armed groups and a major incentive in the continuation of armed conflict. In response, several initiatives were undertaken to curb illicit conflict-fuelling trade in such commodities while protecting legal commerce. The most well-known example is the Kimberley Process for so-called conflict diamonds, a joint initiative of Governments, the international diamond industry and civil society that imposes extensive requirements on participants to certify that shipments of rough diamonds are free of conflict diamonds. Today the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme has evolved into an effective mechanism for stopping the trade in conflict diamonds and covers 99.8 per cent of the global production of rough diamonds. Equally noteworthy initiatives include the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, in accordance with which oil, gas and mining companies commit to publicly disclosing payments they make to Governments, and the Governments in turn agree to publish what payments they receive. The latest report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see S/2006/53) also contains useful ideas on the establishment of a traceable system for natural resources, while promising advances have been made in sanctions regimes that specifically discourage illicit trade in natural resources.

17. It is not enough, however, to target specific industries or commodities. I have been pleased to observe, since the issuance of my last report, a more comprehensive approach to minimizing the role of commerce and the international private sector in — however inadvertently — increasing the risk of armed conflict. A series of

initiatives undertaken under the auspices of the Global Compact have resulted in clearer understandings of the strong links between corporate social responsibility and conflict risk reduction. Commendable outputs include a conflict impact assessment and risk management tool that companies can use to assess their impact and identify ways in which they can positively affect the environments in which they operate. The Security Council has played an important role in advancing this agenda, even inviting company Chief Executive Officers to attend an open debate on this issue in April 2004. So far, however, there remain large gaps in the international regulatory framework. In addition, Governments and the international community in general need to promote conflict-sensitive business practices more forcefully and consistently. Moreover, a great deal more investment is needed to build the national capacities of vulnerable countries to establish effective economic governance. Such investment can succeed only if accompanied by political and popular support from within the affected societies. Otherwise, those who parochially benefit from the absence of such governance institutions will prevent their emergence.

18. Private companies also manufacture and sell the main hardware of conflict, from tanks to guns and landmines. There is a worrisome proliferation in the number of small arms and light weapons — enough to constitute a veritable epidemic that leaves no part of the world untouched. In conflict-prone places this proliferation of cheap, portable but deadly weapons is particularly dangerous and urgently needs to be stemmed. This requires action that is comprehensive, global and practical. In 2001, Member States adopted the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which included a broad series of recommendations to reduce trafficking and misuse of weapons, the full implementation of which was called for in General Assembly resolution 57/337. Unfortunately, despite innovative regional agreements such as the Nairobi Protocol and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) moratorium on small arms and light weapons, implementation of the Programme of Action has been uneven and slow. I call on Member States to renew their commitments in this area and to explore more practical ways of reducing the risks posed by the flow of small arms and light weapons across borders, and especially towards the most vulnerable States, societies and regions. I welcome efforts by the Security Council to contribute to addressing this challenge, which I detailed in my report S/2006/109.

19. On the other end of the spectrum, nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons also require a multilayered and multinational strategy to prevent their use, given the catastrophic consequences that would ensue. I wish to recall the clear and compelling recommendations made by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, which spelled out the need for efforts to reduce demand for these weapons, limit the capacity of both States and non-State actors to acquire them, strengthen enforcement regimes and mount robust civilian and public health defence. If implemented, these recommendations would go a long way towards fulfilling the provisions of paragraphs 5 to 7 of the annex to resolution 57/337. Moreover, these activities will serve not only to mitigate the impact of these weapons but also to reduce the global risk of conflict. In this connection, I welcomed the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1540 (2004), in which the Council urged Member States to enact national legislation criminalizing the development, acquisition, manufacture, possession, transport, transfer or use of

nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery by a non-State actor. But I was dismayed by the failure of Member States to reach agreement at the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. And, as I said at the time, it was highly regrettable that the 2005 World Summit Outcome failed even to mention the grave threat posed by these weapons. Sadly, I must conclude that the prospects for imminent and significant progress in this area are dim. I call on Member States to renew their efforts to find common ground.

20. Flows of illegal narcotics are yet another grave source of instability for certain societies, requiring stronger and more coordinated international action. In many cases drug money fuels corruption, the spread of HIV/AIDS, lawlessness and even terrorism, thereby undermining vulnerable political fabrics even further. I note with interest that the innovative Afghanistan Compact, adopted in January 2006, highlighted the threat posed by the narcotics industry to national, regional and international security. The Government of Afghanistan and the international community made a commitment to address the problem in a variety of ways. This is an interesting model. However, the drug-free world anticipated at the 1998 special session of the General Assembly on this subject seems as elusive as ever. Central Asia, Central America and the Caribbean are but a few of the regions that will continue to face destabilization from this insidious problem in the absence of concerted global, regional and national action. I call on Member States to use the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2008 to pay special attention to the intersection of narcotics and armed conflict and to consider measures to reduce the associated risks, including through comprehensive development plans that tackle poverty, which drives continued drug cultivation in conflict-prone countries, and more concerted efforts to combat addiction in the main importing countries.

21. As was brought home with alarming clarity at the recent High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held at United Nations Headquarters in May and June 2006, HIV/AIDS constitutes a global emergency. For many vulnerable societies, the pandemic has become far more than a public health crisis: it has become a threat to the very fabric of society. Countries most affected by HIV/AIDS suffer from a depletion of the workforce, which directly affects the functioning of institutions and governance. While I understand that the direct links between this and other diseases and armed conflict may appear tenuous to some, I emphatically include this issue in the major sources of tension that must be managed if conflict-prone countries are to avoid the worst-case scenario. I welcome the Political Declaration adopted at the High-level Meeting and hope to see it have an impact on the ground where it matters most.

22. Environmental degradation in forms such as desertification, resource depletion and demographic pressure exacerbates tensions and instability. In Darfur, the relatively peaceful equilibrium that used to prevail among local ethnic groups was progressively destroyed by the disruption of traditional migratory routes, due largely to population pressures, extended drought and the consequent expansion of the desert. At the systemic level, a comprehensive international legal framework for environmental protection remains an aspiration. Unfortunately, pollution, population growth and climate change are not in the distant future: they are occurring now and hitting the poorest and most vulnerable hardest. Environmental degradation has the potential to destabilize already conflict-prone regions, especially when compounded

by inequitable access or politicization of access to scarce resources. I urge Member States to renew their efforts to agree on ways that allow all of us to live sustainably within the planet's means. Programmes relating to the environment not only are a vital way of systemically reducing one of the worst sources of tension within or among societies, they can also have a positive impact locally by promoting dialogue around shared resources and enabling opposing groups to focus on common problems. This is particularly the case with respect to shared water resources.

23. Closely linked to problems of environmental degradation are challenges surrounding migration, including forced migration. The most visible aspect, of course, is displacement induced by conflict, which may produce both refugees and internally displaced persons. In many prolonged conflict situations, extended displacement on a large scale can have a seriously destabilizing effect on the host region or country. On top of conflict-induced displacement, tens of millions of people have been forced to leave their homes in the past decade due to developmental factors, economic dislocation and environmental degradation. Others have fallen victim to the insidious phenomenon of human trafficking. More broadly, migrants are often the youngest and fittest members of society and, in leaving, they deplete the human capital in their countries of origin.

24. Although many migrants ultimately become productive participants in the economy and society of the receiving countries, large-scale immigration can also place undue pressure on receiving countries, especially developing countries that already face severe challenges. Sizeable immigrant populations risk discrimination and their presence can become politicized, as we have seen, tragically, in many countries, rich and poor. I urge Member States to use the opportunity of the upcoming High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which is to take place in September 2006, to pay special attention to the nexus of migration and armed conflict, looking at migration as both an effect and a potential cause of vulnerability to conflict.

25. Among the underlying causes of migration is another important element that has a direct impact on political stability: youth unemployment. Jobless, able youths are compelled to leave their countries in search of opportunities and may fall victim to destructive and self-destructive behaviour. Ever-rising youth unemployment undermines the possibility of progress in countries emerging from conflict, in a broad socio-economic and political sense, and risks destroying the political and social structures in countries that are currently stable. To address this source of tension, I established, together with the heads of the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, the Youth Employment Network, which seeks to engage partners in the private sector and in civil society to find creative solutions to youth unemployment and related challenges.

26. By now it should be clear that the measures described above should all be underpinned by a more energetic and committed approach to development and poverty reduction. Not surprisingly, both the General Assembly, in its resolution 57/337, and the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change chose to situate fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and development in general as the indispensable foundation of prevention. While largely a country-specific endeavour, there are systemic dimensions to the issue. The Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) constituted an unprecedented promise by world leaders to address peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms as

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a single package. Many of the Millennium Development Goals, if attained, would serve to significantly reduce the overall sources of tension for developing countries that are vulnerable to conflict. They would serve to make the world a safer place. They also contain the important idea of a global partnership in which all countries must play a role; developing countries must be at the forefront of solving their own problems, and developed countries must support their efforts. An analogous premise underpins the present report: countries vulnerable to conflict have to solve their own problems, and the rest of us must support them accordingly.

B. Country-specific structural actions to address sources of tension

27. Many of the initiatives being taken at the systemic level require complementary action by national Governments to address specific challenges. In paragraph 16 of the annex to its resolution 57/337, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to strengthen national capacities for addressing structural risk factors. Member States need not face this challenge alone, however. An array of international actors are mandated to assist, which must include addressing problems of corruption and weak governance and promoting conflict-sensitive development assistance.

28. Much armed conflict is caused by failures in governance and public administration systems, institutions and practices. This is the case particularly when public policies fail — deliberately or inadvertently — to achieve even-handed responses to social, economic and political needs. Horizontal inequalities that are, or are perceived to be, the result of poor governance frequently lead to conflict that can turn violent. This is particularly the case when existing ethnic, regional or religious cleavages are overlaid by the inequitable allocation of public goods. External actors can lend a great deal of assistance in this regard, particularly by offering governance and institution-building programmes. As is currently the case in Liberia, where in September 2005 the National Transitional Government and Liberia's international partners signed the innovative Governance and Economic Management Assistance Programme for Liberia, such assistance can extend to supporting effective economic governance as well as more traditional political governance programming.

29. Corruption is a particularly insidious violation of public trust and an important obstacle to good governance. In both conflict-prone and post-conflict environments, tackling rampant corruption is a sine qua non of restoring the credibility of institutions. Absent this credibility, institutions are less able to resolve conflicts before they give rise to violence. I welcome the adoption by Member States of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (resolution 58/4) in 2003, and I urge those Member States that have yet to do so to ratify that important instrument without delay. In accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in the Convention, I shall soon begin preparations for the annual conference of States parties to the Convention, establishing a secretariat for that purpose.

30. Poor countries and regions account for a disproportionate share of armed conflict. Unless the factors that fuel conflict are addressed, there is little chance of achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction. But without advancing development and anti-poverty goals, we will not create durable peace. At the country level, therefore, development programming that focuses on decreasing the structural risk factors that fuel armed conflict and strengthening a country's capacity

to manage tensions is a cornerstone of effective prevention. As in my 2001 report, I urge Member States to avail themselves of the wealth of relevant advisory services and technical assistance offered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations development actors, and I further call on donor countries to provide additional resources so that the United Nations Development Group can strengthen its capacities to offer such assistance.

C. Operational actions to address sources of tension

31. Finally, the so-called operational end of the preventive action spectrum offers a variety of ways in which countries can seek assistance in pulling back from the brink. Occasionally it may be helpful and necessary to have recourse to the good offices of external actors to address sources of tension and friction in a society, ideally before they lead to violence. Good offices can be understood as any diplomatic initiative undertaken by a third party acting as an honest broker and a channel of communication between parties to a dispute, with functions ranging from passing messages from one party to another, to brokering a limited agreement, to negotiating a comprehensive accord. This includes many of the activities listed in Article 33, paragraph 1, of the Charter, including negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation and resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means that the parties may choose.

32. My predecessors and I have provided our good offices in a wide range of situations and on countless occasions, offering an avenue for the resolution of inter-State wars, intra-State wars, border disputes, maritime disputes, constitutional disputes, electoral disputes, questions of autonomy and independence, hostage crises and a vast range of other disagreements and problems. My good offices are always at the disposal of Member States, especially in cases where I or my envoys could help to avoid the outbreak of armed conflict in the first place.

33. The 2005 World Summit recognized "the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General, including in the mediation of disputes" (resolution 60/1, para. 76) and supported efforts to strengthen my capacity in this area. The General Assembly subsequently approved a start-up mediation support capacity in the Department of Political Affairs (resolution 60/246). The aim of this Mediation Support Unit, working in tandem with strengthened Department of Political Affairs regional divisions, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and others, will be to provide mediators and their teams with advice, operational tools and guidance on key issues they face, based on the wealth of lessons and best practices accumulated by the United Nations and its partners in this field in the past decade or more, and to ensure that they can readily call upon appropriate expertise and experience. The services of the Mediation Support Unit will be available not just to United Nations mediators but to the whole United Nations system and its partners, including Governments, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and private individuals. Even when the United Nations is not the lead mediator, it often plays a crucial role as a provider of technical expertise and a standard-setter.

34. The Mediation Support Unit is now becoming operational and, hopefully, will be able to rely on a firmer financial footing with the support of Member States. With this as one important element, I anticipate being able to report additional progress in

the implementation of paragraphs 24 and 36 of the annex to resolution 57/337, in which the General Assembly encouraged the strengthening of the process of the peaceful settlement of disputes and efforts to make it more effective, and supported my intention to improve the use of the means at my disposal, including fact-finding missions and confidence-building measures.

35. Meeting humanitarian needs in a timely way can also contribute to preventing the outbreak or recurrence of armed conflict. Although the bulk of humanitarian attention and resources naturally flows towards emergencies that were caused or exacerbated by armed conflict, a great deal more can and should be done on the humanitarian front to avert crises before they lead to armed confrontation. In particular, tackling food insecurity and related problems of agricultural underproduction and resource scarcity can do much to stabilize a fragile situation. A hungry person is an angry person. In addition to paying much closer attention to food insecurity that can lead to conflict, it is important to deliver food and other assistance in ways that do not contribute to conflict. Moreover, the information produced by famine and other humanitarian early warning systems can forecast possible political deterioration. Bringing communities together to tackle humanitarian concerns such as food insecurity, water supplies, health and the needs of children can also serve a conflict-prevention purpose by opening avenues for dialogue and mutual cooperation. The role of the humanitarian community in preventing and mitigating conflict is being strengthened through ongoing system-wide reforms, including the Central Emergency Response Fund, which can be used to jump-start humanitarian activities as early as possible, and the "cluster approach", which enhances predictable leadership in nine key gap areas, thus improving the links between humanitarian and development programming. I also take note of the potentially important contribution of a common humanitarian early warning system, which includes socio-economic data and is in development.

36. Another important initiative that has been driven by the humanitarian community but that must be far more widely owned and implemented is the strengthening of the framework for the protection of civilians, on which a great deal of work has been done since the issuance of my 2001 report. Civilians already caught up in armed conflict must be protected from its consequences to the best of our ability; this preserves the chance of meaningful recovery and non-recurrence of the conflict. The adoption in April 2006 of Security Council resolution 1674 (2006) represents the most recent step forward in respect of this important agenda. Strides have also been made in advancing the protection of children in armed conflict, particularly in the area of monitoring and reporting violations of children's rights. I am also gratified to see that regional organizations are seeking to better define and implement their protection role.

37. Sanctions can play an important role in support of preventive diplomacy by providing leverage to bring parties to the bargaining table, to encourage actors to take steps set out by the international community to mitigate threats, or to discourage actors from continuing activities that are deemed threats to international peace and security. In Angola and Sierra Leone, targeted sanctions combined with military pressure weakened and isolated recalcitrants. The application of targeted sanctions in Côte d'Ivoire is believed to have dampened the recent spate of violence, not least because it raised the possibility of measures against persons responsible for serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law as well persons publicly inciting hatred and violence. This is a novel and possibly

promising approach to follow in situations in which conflict can be stoked by unscrupulous actors. In addition, sanctions to stem the financing of terrorist acts or deny safe haven or travel by terrorists have become central tenets of the global effort to counter terrorism.

38. While best known as a tool of coercion, sanctions can also play a useful role in constructive engagement or persuasion, especially when coupled with appropriate inducements. In some cases, the threat of sanctions has been sufficient to bring about a change in the behaviour of the target. In order to be effective sanctions must be credible, in that they must be backed by the concerted political will of Security Council members and the international community. Further, their purpose and design must be clear, an effective mechanism to monitor compliance should be in place and there should be clear benchmarks for the end of the sanctions regime.

III. Strengthening norms and institutions for peace

39. Reducing and managing the sources of societal tension is but one half of the conflict-prevention equation. It is equally important to enhance a country's resilience to the outbreak or escalation of armed conflict. In paragraph 15 of the annex to its resolution 57/337, the General Assembly noted that "freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding [are] important elements for preventing armed conflict". All of these elements contribute to the creation of an infrastructure for peace at both the international and national levels. Here too, mutually reinforcing actions are under way at the systemic, structural and operational levels.

A. Systemic actions to strengthen norms and institutions for peace

40. In spite of mankind's many dark moments in the last century, there was at least steady progress in the development of an international legal framework designed to limit the possibility and impact of war. In paragraphs 9 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 57/337, the General Assembly called upon Member States to accede to, ratify and comply with international human rights, humanitarian and other relevant legal instruments. I vigorously reiterate that call. Treaties, even when solemnly ratified, do not prevent conflict unless they are understood and complied with on the ground. To that end, I commend the efforts undertaken by Governments, regional organizations and the United Nations system to develop tools and guidelines to help military, humanitarian and other personnel understand and apply these laws.

41. The establishment of the International Criminal Court demonstrates the international community's commitment to deterring war crimes and massive violations of human rights and humanitarian law. The Court is already having an important impact by putting would-be violators on notice that impunity is not assured and by serving as a catalyst for enacting national laws against the gravest international crimes. In paragraph 12 of the annex to its resolution 57/337, the General Assembly stressed the need to bring to justice perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity as a significant contribution towards the promotion of prevention. I welcome progress in this regard and hope that much more can be done in the coming years, including through further accessions to the Rome Statute and referral of situations to the Court.

42. A significant step forward was taken last September with the inclusion in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, paragraphs 138 and 139, of a strong commitment by Member States to their "responsibility to protect" populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In April 2006 the Security Council reaffirmed those provisions in its resolution 1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The emerging norm of "responsibility to protect" focuses on the responsibilities of sovereignty as opposed to the rights, essentially setting forth the primary obligation of States to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing and making clear that when States fail to do this, the responsibility falls to the international community. The doctrine also clearly embraces a specific "responsibility to prevent", which I wholly endorse. To embrace this responsibility more completely we must be actively engaged on all the fronts explored in the present report, and these efforts must be spearheaded by sovereign States themselves.

43. I welcome emerging regional initiatives to take a stand against the violent overthrow of representative or legitimately elected Governments. Article 30 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union states, "Governments which shall come to power through unconstitutional means shall not be allowed to participate in the activities of the Union." The Organization of American States has had a similar provision since 1991 and in 2001 adopted the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which contains a commitment to respond in the event of an "unconstitutional alteration of the constitutional regime" of one of its Member States. I hope that the United Nations can support and build upon the experience of regional organizations in developing these frameworks, as recommended by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.

44. In addition to the growing normative framework, it is important to advance the international culture of peace and understanding. The culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations. A global movement of civil society organizations is emerging to advance this concept. Aside from this commendable and organized movement, many groups around the world, by their very ethos, play an important role in promoting dialogue and peaceful ways of life over violence. Religious leaders in particular have a special role as agents of change and peaceful coexistence. I encourage their efforts at the global level as well as in their specific countries and regions.

B. Country-specific structural actions to strengthen norms and institutions for peace

45. Healthy societies that can channel conflict non-violently are usually characterized by political and social institutions that are inclusive and accountable, as well as by economic, social and cultural diversity. It also helps to have leaders — in both Government and civil society — who understand the power of collaborative conflict resolution, institutions specifically designed to redirect conflict away from violent expression and towards positive outcomes and a reliable legal system that all members of society can trust. Essentially, the aim should be the creation of a sustainable national infrastructure for peace that allows societies and their

governments to resolve conflicts internally and with their own skills, institutions and resources. The elements of such an infrastructure are sketched out below.

46. Although there is no single formula or path to get there, the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed democracy as a universal value. Countries prone to armed conflict merit special assistance with respect to democratization. Democratic governance depends both on a legal framework that protects basic human rights and provides a system of checks and balances and on functioning rule-of-law institutions; it is the absence of precisely these characteristics that often leads people to feel they must resort to violence to be heard. Individual Governments must find their own path to democracy, but the United Nations and its partners offer a variety of important services, at the request of Member States. These include electoral assistance, constitutional assistance, human rights capacity-building, support for good governance, anti-corruption initiatives and reforms in key sectors, including the security and judicial sectors. As part of an overall aim to deepen and expand United Nations support for democracy and to make it more concrete, the United Nations Democracy Fund was established in July 2005. The Democracy Fund is intended to reinforce the work that the United Nations system is already doing in the area of democratization, human rights and people's participation. The priorities of the Democracy Fund include strengthening democratic dialogue; support for constitution-related assistance processes; civil society empowerment, civic education and voter registration; and strengthening political parties, citizens' access to information, human rights and fundamental freedoms, accountability, transparency and integrity.

47. Member States have formed two important movements to advance principles of democracy, the movement of new or restored democracies and the Community of Democracies. I encourage them to explore how the two movements can complement each other to optimum effect. Regional organizations also contribute significantly to advancing democratic institutions and principles in their own regions. Most notably, the African Union's Constitutive Act binds members to a number of democratic principles, and the African Union is working to adopt a charter on democratic principles containing minimum benchmarks of democratic practice on the continent.

48. The purpose of constitutions is to set the terms of the relationship between a State and its citizens. A carefully crafted constitution can provide a society with the tools to manage and resolve disputes peacefully, while a flawed constitution can exacerbate existing problems. There have been a number of instances in which Member States have been on the brink of conflict due to difficult constitutional questions; in many cases, the constitution has been used as a means of exclusion, repression and perpetuation of power by a ruling elite. Many potential conflicts could be averted with a sound constitution or early efforts to amend the constitution so that it serves its rightful purpose. External support for the drafting of constitutions is available but could be more coherent and strategic; to that end, I welcome the support of Member States for strengthening United Nations activities in this area, including through the establishment of a rule-of-law capacity.

49. The holding of regular and participatory elections is enshrined as one of the important human rights in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. One source of conflict is the perception or reality that political leaders of a country do not represent the people and their aspirations. The holding of credible elections is meant to respond to this need for representative government. The United Nations

has increasingly been asked to assist Member States and others in the conduct of credible elections. Some of the important elements in the electoral assistance of the United Nations are the emphasis on the need for wide consultations and the participation of the stakeholders in the electoral process, such as in the discussion of electoral policies, voter registration, civic and voter education, and observation, as well as the need for transparency throughout the electoral process. During the 1990s, the United Nations organized or observed landmark elections and electoral processes in Cambodia, East Timor, El Salvador, Mozambique and South Africa. More recently, the Organization provided crucial technical assistance in milestone elections in Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq, Liberia, the occupied Palestinian territories and Sierra Leone. Between 1992 and January 2005, the United Nations provided electoral assistance in 95 countries.

50. There is a reciprocal relationship between human rights and conflict prevention. Violations of human rights are a root cause of conflict; they are also a common consequence of it. It is therefore imperative that resilient national human rights institutions and protection systems be established to safeguard those rights. The 2005 World Summit Outcome acknowledged the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all as essential for peace and security. To that end, leaders pledged to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and urged closer cooperation between the latter and United Nations bodies including the Security Council. Pursuant to the Summit Outcome, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/251, created the Human Rights Council to replace the Commission on Human Rights and, inter alia, to contribute to the prevention of human rights violations and to respond promptly to human rights emergencies. The creation of the Human Rights Council and the strengthening of OHCHR through the doubling of its resources will greatly enhance the technical cooperation and advisory services available to countries looking to reduce their vulnerability to human rights violations. Moreover, closer collaboration between OHCHR and the Security Council will facilitate the integration of information generated by the United Nations human rights mechanisms in policy formulation and preventive measures by the Council.

51. Another important characteristic of societies that peacefully manage conflict is a vibrant civil society, including non-governmental organizations, free media and active religious leaders. Access to free and independent media is fundamental to freedom of expression, public accountability and transparency. Responsible media also serve an educational role that can advance the culture of peace and prevention. More generally, many civil society organizations serve to channel the voices of important constituencies within society. Civil society groups, acting responsibly and accountably, can also serve an explicit preventive purpose, calling attention to problems that officials may not be able or willing to identify and reaching out to different identity groups.

52. Open communication and dialogue are vital to the peaceful and constructive handling of tensions. In conflict-prone countries it is sometimes necessary to facilitate broad, participatory national dialogue and consensus-building processes with a view to formulating a common vision for the future. Dialogue processes are part of and reinforce the development of an infrastructure for peace in that they serve to inform and give legitimacy to capacity-development programmes, as well as to initiatives for reconciliation. In such processes special efforts must be made to

reach out to and reflect the voices of women, who are too often absent from the decision-making table but whose capacities to contribute to conflict prevention and constructive dialogue are deep and often insufficiently tapped. A joint programme implemented by the Department of Political Affairs and UNDP seeks to strengthen national institutional and individual capacities for conflict resolution, including by building skills for negotiation and consensus formation. The programme currently supports initiatives in nine countries in Africa and Latin America. In Guyana, assistance has been provided for national and civic institutions, particularly the Ethnic Relations Commission and the Private Sector Commission in promoting reconciliation, building consensus and reducing inter-ethnic tension.

53. Some Member States have been at the forefront of furthering the concept of national responsibility for conflict prevention, and to that end, partly through support offered under the UNDP-Department of Political Affairs joint programme, they have been consciously promoting national infrastructures for peace. Ghana, for instance, aims through this programme to develop effective collaboration between government and civil society for early response to emerging conflicts over land, resources and chieftaincy succession. Many of the essential components of such an infrastructure have been touched upon above, but, to describe it more specifically, I see Member States, Governments and civil society as requiring several specific capacities in order to fulfil this responsibility: the capacity to analyse common problems and identify potential flashpoints together; the capacity to find and sustain internal solutions to disputes; the capacity to provide neutral space for dialogue on important issues; and the capacity to pass these skills on to the next generation.

54. The United Nations and its partners make available a variety of assistance programmes to help the establishment of such national infrastructures of peace. In the section below on United Nations capacity, I will address the capabilities that are required to lend sufficient external support to that end.

C. Operational actions to strengthen norms and institutions for peace

55. Even in the face of potentially imminent crisis, it may not be too late to give a vital boost to the national norms and institutions that can promote peace and avert violence. In such situations, strategies that address institutional weaknesses should usually be accompanied by efforts to promote inter-group dialogue and cooperation, as well as possibly by diplomatic pressure and/or inducements, aid conditionality and even, in some cases, preventive deployment of civilian observers and/or military personnel. The aim is often to buy enough time and create enough space so that processes of reforming State institutions can begin to take effect. Conflict is not truly over or averted until responsive and accountable State authority has been put in place. While that process is under way, the key is to keep lines of communication and dialogue open and to keep violence at bay.

56. Because such efforts are usually undertaken in situations of extreme time pressure and high political stakes, it is essential that all actors involved — national, regional and international — act in concert with each other, each playing to its strengths. In 2005, the United Nations, working closely with concerned Governments, the Organization of American States and the Andean Community of Nations, rallied to support the Government of Ecuador to renew that country's democratic institutions and build up the independence of State authorities,

specifically the Supreme Court. The process of restructuring the Court was conducted with transparency and unprecedented openness to public participation and monitoring, and it involved a broad array of national, regional and international actors. For these reasons it is an important model that merits being taken into account in any future process to appoint judges and other authorities in broadly comparable circumstances. The inaugural ceremony of the new Court took place on 30 November 2005 in Quito.

IV. Mechanisms for resolving inter-State disputes

57. Many of the principles elucidated above apply equally to the prevention and the settlement of inter-State disputes, even if the mechanisms available may differ. Above all, and in accordance with Article 33, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, it is the responsibility of individual sovereign Governments to prevent armed inter-State conflict and, to that end, to make use of the tools and forums provided for the peaceful resolution of disputes. I am delighted to see that, in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 18 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 57/337, Member States have in some instances made effective use of existing procedures and methods for the peaceful settlement of their disputes, including the International Court of Justice. I encourage them to continue to avail themselves of these procedures.

58. In some cases, the use of these mechanisms has been facilitated by my good offices. In September 2002, for example, shortly before the International Court of Justice was due to render its decision on the long-standing dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria on their shared land and maritime boundary, I invited the Presidents of both countries to meet with me to agree to respect and implement the Court's ruling and to establish an implementation mechanism with the support of the United Nations. As a result of these and subsequent meetings, the United Nations-supported Mixed Commission was established to support and facilitate the implementation of the Court's decision, including the demarcation process. To strengthen confidence between the parties, the Mixed Commission also identified possible projects to promote cross-border cooperation and joint economic ventures to benefit the population in the area. More recently, in June 2006, nearly four years after the Mixed Commission was set up and after the demarcation of 460 kilometres of land border, the two countries signed an agreement at Greentree, New York, for the implementation of the Court's decision regarding the Bakassi peninsula.

59. Dialogue as a means to prevent disputes from escalating into violence is as important among States and cultures as it is within borders. The Alliance of Civilizations, established in 2005 to promote understanding between Islamic and Western societies, seeks to bridge divides and overcome prejudice, misconceptions, misperceptions and polarization, which potentially threaten peace. It aims to promote collaboration on initiatives designed to heal divisions and address emerging threats emanating from hostile perceptions that foment violence. The United Nations and regional organizations have called upon the Alliance to suggest ways of encouraging broader and deeper respect and understanding among people of different beliefs, cultures and traditions.

60. My own good offices are always available to Member States that wish to resolve their inter-State differences peacefully, and I anticipate that the new

mediation support capacity in the United Nations Secretariat will allow me and my successor to meet the growing needs in this area. I encourage Member States to make use of this assistance.

V. Acting in concert

61. As we come to terms with the multilayered nature of effective preventive action, it becomes clear that no State or organization can act alone. The principles of shared vulnerability and shared responsibility that were so eloquently elaborated by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change unreservedly apply to the prevention of armed conflict. This is not to take away from the primary obligation of individual Member States, which I laid out in my 2001 report. However, it is clear that Member States can and should call on a concert of national and international actors that have a variety of roles to play in addressing sources of tension and strengthening the infrastructure of peace.

62. The United Nations provides assistance in many of the key areas described in sections II and III above and fleshed out considerably in the annex. It also serves to build coalitions for action and to advance important norms and trends. Issues regarding the United Nations capacity to fulfil its potential in the prevention of armed conflict are addressed in the next section.

63. In accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, regional organizations play an increasingly important role in conflict prevention. Some have begun to establish conflict-prevention centres with early warning systems and have taken very important steps to advance the applicable normative framework in their regions. Often, regional organizations, by virtue of their proximity to the sources of conflicts, have particular leverage and credibility to encourage their members to adhere to particular norms, for example, on good governance.

64. In addition to African initiatives mentioned above, the African Union has created a Peace and Security Council and a Committee of the Wise, which supports the work of the Council. Twenty-three countries have now acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which was established to assess, monitor and promote good political, economic and corporate governance and human rights observance. ECOWAS has played a key peacekeeping and mediating role in West Africa.

65. In Europe, the European Union (EU) has adopted the Programme for Conflict Prevention, which puts forward a number of guidelines for action. There is also the European Neighbourhood Policy, which brings together a number of policy instruments and provides for a framework for conflict prevention in EU neighbouring countries, in particular in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and the southern Mediterranean, with a view to enhancing stability and sustainable development. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is increasingly focused on conflict-prevention activities, including through its Conflict Prevention Centre and the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

66. On 11 September 2001, the Organization of American States adopted the Inter-American Democratic Charter, a groundbreaking approach laying the foundations for peaceful coexistence among democratic Member States. That Charter includes mechanisms for coming to the aid of democracies that are weak or

threatened and for imposing sanctions on members that violate basic democratic norms. Central American States have demonstrated their strong commitment to the rule of law and conflict prevention by deciding that all remaining border disputes in the region should be resolved by the International Court of Justice. These border issues include long-standing land, island and maritime disputes that have the potential to destabilize the region if not addressed in a peaceful and systematic manner.

67. In Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations have strengthened their dialogue on the prevention of conflict in the region through joint annual seminars on the subject. These seminars assist in the identification of situations and conditions in which ASEAN and the United Nations could further collaborate to anticipate, prevent or resolve conflicts. The last such seminar provided an important opportunity to discuss the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action. United Nations cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum is also increasing.

68. In addition to its bilateral contacts with regional organizations, since 1994 the United Nations has worked to bring all regional organizations together so that they can benefit from innovative approaches and from the knowledge of effective prevention strategies that is acquired elsewhere in the world. In 1998 the high-level meeting between the Secretary-General and the heads of regional organizations was devoted to the issue of conflict prevention. Thirteen modalities of cooperation in the field of prevention were adopted and are in the process of being implemented, albeit unevenly. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1631 (2005), I will soon make concrete proposals for enhancing Secretariat support for capacity-building and the coordination of activities of the United Nations and regional organizations for the prevention of armed conflict.

69. There are many other actors at the international, national and local levels that have an important role to play in conflict prevention. As mentioned above, the international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and the media all have the potential to advance the conflict-prevention agenda in general and in specific cases. In some cases, the United Nations is making greater efforts to reach out to and tap the potential of these actors, including them in coalitions for peace and supporting them in their important work.

70. In recent years, the international financial institutions have made good progress in incorporating conflict-prevention strategies into their funding initiatives, in advancing our understanding of conflict through targeted research and in developing additional institutional capacity. The World Bank, for example, now has a dedicated capacity for conflict prevention and reconstruction, the aim of which is to ease the transition to sustainable peace and support socio-economic development in conflict-affected countries. As a next step, I would encourage the development of a more structured relationship between the United Nations system and the international financial institutions to ensure better coordination in the policy planning process, the creation of greater synergies and stronger joint leverage.

71. Civil society and religious leaders are important partners for peace, often indispensable in "track two" and "people to people" diplomacy. At times, they can complement the work of the United Nations by offering valuable analysis originating in the field, forging partnerships to implement United Nations decisions, increasing the sustainability of United Nations operations and creating networks to

advocate for peace. Civil society networks can serve as important mobilizers of change. Civil society's expertise and unique perspective in conflict prevention are widely recognized by intergovernmental bodies, as manifested, for example, in Security Council resolution 1366 (2001), General Assembly resolution 57/337 and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. In September 2005, in a meeting dedicated to the subject, the Council underlined the potential contributions of a vibrant and diverse civil society to conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes (see S/PV.5264). I am delighted to see that the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict works closely with the United Nations to fulfil aspects of resolution 57/337, in particular in the effort to build more effective partnerships with civil society. However, more can and must be done to fully tap the potential of this important collaboration. I encourage new and existing organs of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, to further explore systematic engagement with civil society groups. Further, we must find better ways and means to engage populations affected by conflicts in decisions affecting their lives and strive for more participation and accountability in this regard.

72. The role of parliamentarians has not been fully exploited as far as prevention is concerned, but I am pleased to see that more attention is being paid of late to their potential contribution. Entrusted with the responsibility to oversee the actions of the executive, to fully represent the people and to legislate, parliamentarians have a pivotal role to play in ensuring that conflict is managed within the boundaries of political space and dialogue. I would encourage the further exploration of the role that the Inter-Parliamentary Union may play in concert with other conflict-prevention actors.

73. The private sector can be a positive agent for peace, channelling investment in socially responsible ways and avoiding negative impacts in vulnerable regions. The United Nations is working with the private sector to assist with these challenges, including through the Global Compact Office and the Security Council. In April 2006, I launched the Principles for Responsible Investment, which provide institutional investors with a common framework for integrating environmental and social issues into investment decision-making. Many of the issues included in the Principles are relevant to conflict prevention.

74. The media have enormous power to influence debate and set the agenda, in addition to providing early warning and pressure for action in certain cases. Exercising that power responsibly is an important obligation, in which the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Department of Public Information, regularly assist.

75. Women are a vital resource for conflict prevention, and I continue to call for their effective inclusion and participation in decision-making at all levels, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/337, annex, paragraph 13. The 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirmed the commitment of world leaders to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective. In keeping with resolution 57/337, annex, paragraph 30, my 2005 report on women and peace and security (S/2005/636) includes the United Nations system-wide action plan for implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which provides a wealth of information on activities being carried out by the

United Nations system in conflict and post-conflict areas. I reiterate my call for speedy implementation of the action plan and urge Member States to work with the Security Council towards establishing a monitoring and compliance mechanism for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). I also note that in its most recent resolution on the protection of civilians (resolution 1674 (2006)) the Security Council recognized that gender-based violence may constitute a threat to international peace and security. This is a big step forward, and I urge Member States to pay special attention to this matter.

VI. The United Nations contribution

76. Many parts of the United Nations system play a role in advancing elements of the agenda set out above. I described their mandates and responsibilities with great care in my 2001 report, and many of the observations made then still hold. Resolution 57/337 also set out in some detail the roles of Member States and the principal organs of the United Nations.

A. Intergovernmental organs

77. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/337 on 3 July 2003, and in accordance with the provisions of its own resolution 1366 (2001), the Security Council has continued and increased its efforts to keep situations of potential armed conflict under close review and to take early and effective action to prevent armed conflict. As part of its prevention strategy, and in order to receive first-hand information and directly engage Governments and other stakeholders in the countries concerned, the Council has undertaken a number of missions to areas of potential or actual conflict, including West Africa, Central Africa, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Haiti and, most recently, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council has continued to encourage efforts for conflict resolution in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter, not only by making appropriate recommendations to parties to conflict, but also by inviting the Secretary-General, regional organizations and other relevant actors to support peace processes, including through the use of good offices, mediation and fact-finding missions.

78. In order to help maintain and consolidate peace and prevent the recurrence of conflict, the Security Council established new peacekeeping operations in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Burundi and the Sudan, the mandates of which included a variety of quick-impact projects and peacebuilding elements. The Council has also paid increased attention to the root causes of conflict and sought ways and means to address them, including by holding thematic debates on topics such as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in West Africa, Africa's food crisis as a threat to peace and stability, justice and the rule of law, the role of civil society and business in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, cooperation with regional organizations and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. Within the context of such debates, or in connection with concrete situations of potential or actual conflict, the Council has repeatedly invited the Emergency Relief Coordinator and heads or representatives of other United

Nations agencies and entities to brief its members on emergency situations endangering international peace and security.

79. In the course of its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions, the General Assembly devoted considerable attention to a number of issues related to the prevention of armed conflict, most prominently in the context of its discussions and resolutions on the revitalization of the Assembly. Those deliberations focused particularly on the ways in which issues of international peace and security are dealt with in the Assembly itself and between the Assembly and the Security Council. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 59/313, "in the context of further strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly as set out in the Charter of the United Nations", the Assembly devoted specific attention to its own consideration of issues of international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 35 of the Charter; its consideration of the annual report of the Security Council; its repeated invitation to the Council periodically to submit special subject-oriented reports on issues of current international concern; and its renewed invitation to the Council to update it on a regular basis on steps taken to improve such reporting.

80. Additionally, in the course of its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions, the Assembly adopted resolutions 58/43 and 59/87, both entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context", which referred specifically to resolution 57/337. Further, in deciding the reorganization and restructuring of its agenda in paragraph 2 of the annex to its resolution 58/316, the Assembly defined the first of the main headings under which the agenda would henceforth be presented as "Maintenance of international peace and security".

81. Lastly, in paragraphs 2 to 6 of the annex to its resolution 58/126, the Assembly commented on the annual and special subject-oriented reports of the Security Council and their treatment and consideration by the Assembly, as well as the need for regular briefings to the President of the General Assembly by the President of the Security Council and for periodic meetings between the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council to ensure enhanced coordination among and between the three organs. The item and issue of the prevention of armed conflict would clearly be a principal beneficiary of such improvements.

82. Although the Economic and Social Council has not yet begun systematically to exercise normative and analytical leadership with respect to interconnected peace, development and security challenges, as envisaged by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, it has become more active with respect to countries emerging from conflict. This attention serves to reduce the risk that those fragile countries will slip back into armed violence. Within the framework of its resolution 2002/1 on an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict, the Council has set up Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi, at the request of the countries concerned. At its 2004 substantive session, the Council carried out an assessment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups, and in its resolution 2004/59 it commended the Advisory Groups for their innovative and constructive work in support of Guinea-Bissau and Burundi and made suggestions on how to further improve their work. I look forward to the creation of new mechanisms of this type for other African countries emerging from conflicts.

83. Since my last comprehensive report and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/337, two new United Nations entities have been established that may play an important role in preventing armed conflict.

84. Although the Peacebuilding Commission does not have a preventive mandate, we cannot ignore the fact that the countries at greatest risk of conflict are those that have emerged from conflict within the last five years. It is therefore hoped that the Commission's efforts to consolidate peace will serve to prevent relapses into war.

85. The new Human Rights Council will by definition spend considerable time discussing cases where massive human rights violations jeopardize peace. I urge that body to bear in mind the lessons and recommendations contained in the present report.

B. The Secretary-General and the United Nations system

86. Above I have described my good offices function and urged Member States to make use of it with respect to the prevention of armed conflict. While it may be a time-consuming tool that requires patience and persistence and is often used in confidence, away from the limelight, it is a valuable instrument that has historically yielded many positive results, including in the recent past.

87. I hope that, in addition to offering such an avenue to parties wishing to resolve their disputes, my successor can continue to advance prevention at the conceptual and normative levels. In this regard, the Secretary-General's annual report on the work of the Organization represents a possible vehicle for discussing the challenge of prevention in more depth in the future.

88. In its resolution 57/337, the General Assembly called on me to undertake a detailed review of the capacity of the United Nations system for conflict prevention. The review was conducted in early 2006 and assessed strengths and weaknesses of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes. (For details on methodology and key findings, see annex, sects. A and B.) Overall, the capacity review showed that the United Nations system has made significant progress in its response to the challenge of preventing armed conflict. At the same time, the review identified a number of gaps in the system. Some targeted capacity-building will be required, together with a number of structural adjustments, to further advance the implementation of the prevention agenda. In this regard, I would also like to recall the findings and recommendations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on conflict prevention and the need for a collective approach on this issue (see E/2005/63, sect. IV).

89. I am pleased to report that the capacity review found that most entities within the United Nations system understand conflict prevention as a core activity of their work and have integrated it into their mandates and programmed activities (see annex, sect. C). Departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, especially the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and OHCHR, are available to provide policy expertise and direct engagement with the relevant actors, including regional, bilateral, and multilateral partners. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, typically coordinated at the country level by the resident coordinator, offer support

by developing and implementing the programmes and activities necessary for building the capacities outlined in section III.B above, under the leadership of and in close collaboration with national partners.

90. While prevention is now fully understood as central to the mission of the Organization, system-wide strategic leadership in this area is still weak. The Department of Political Affairs is the focal point for conflict prevention on behalf of the whole system; it is also the chief source of political analysis and advice, as well as the centre for direct support for preventive diplomacy and good offices. While I am pleased that the General Assembly recently approved a start-up mediation support capacity within the Department of Political Affairs, as described in more detail above, the Department remains significantly under-resourced in the light of its growing workload. This was the finding of a recent evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the work of the four regional divisions, the backbone of the Department and the primary source of political knowledge and guidance in the United Nations system (see E/AC.51/2006/4). The critical resource shortage in the Department has left it heavily driven by the exigencies of crisis response and unable to engage in depth at the country level in many cases.

91. Meaningful diplomatic intervention cannot be achieved without intimate knowledge of political, cultural and geographic reality combined with the patient groundwork of building critical local relationships, trust and capacity over a long period. These efforts are labour-intensive and cannot be carried out within existing resources. Most of all, collective political will is required to make real progress. The other parts of the United Nations system that are deeply engaged in conflict prevention look to the Department of Political Affairs to provide strategic leadership in this area, but the Department is not always in a position to respond and needs to be better equipped to do so. Moreover, in the absence of enhanced capacity within the Department, the improvements to our coordination mechanisms for conflict prevention described below will not have maximum impact.

92. Several coordination mechanisms exist in the United Nations system that address specific sectors related to conflict prevention, but they have fallen short of providing a coherent, overarching strategy, both in the field and at Headquarters. In order to ensure that conflict-prevention support is provided in a more integrated manner, the United Nations system is taking steps to enhance the functioning and the utility of its coordination mechanisms.

93. In 2005, I established the Policy Committee to strengthen coherence within the United Nations system. It has already adopted a number of system-wide strategies on peace and security issues. The Executive Committees on Peace and Security and on Humanitarian Affairs and the Interdepartmental Framework for Coordination (Framework Team), an internal mechanism for coordinating support in the area of structural, or long-term, prevention, now routinely invite resident coordinators, or my special envoys and representatives, to lead discussions on specific situations. The Framework Team has recently been strengthened so that it can systematically support Governments and civil society, in both the development and the implementation of their own capacities for conflict prevention. Sensitivity to conflict prevention is also being incorporated into a variety of United Nations tools used for planning and programming, notably the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. I have instructed the Department of Political Affairs to routinely contribute an assessment of the political

situation of the countries and regions under consideration to these mechanisms and have also instructed resident coordinators to engage the Department systematically in their preparation. Further, I have requested the United Nations system to explore ways to include assessments of emerging threats into our assessments and engage more systematically with Governments, regional organizations and bilateral partners, as appropriate.

94. In its resolution 57/337, annex, paragraph 35, the General Assembly recognized the need to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for early warning, collection of information and analysis. I regret to report that no significant progress has been made in this area. In fact, unlike some regional organizations, the United Nations still lacks the capability to analyse and integrate data from different parts of the system into comprehensive early warning reports and strategies on conflict prevention. Likewise, knowledge-management mechanisms are developed unevenly across the system. Some United Nations system partners reflect on their experience systematically to draw lessons and identify good practices from their conflict-prevention activities, whereas others review their work only in an ad hoc fashion. As a whole, the United Nations system lacks a comprehensive repository for the knowledge gained in its diverse conflict-prevention activities — its institutional memory in this field is fragmented and incomplete. The newly strengthened Framework Team could provide a base for such a repository of knowledge, and for an extraction of best practices and their systematic use in the development of integrated strategies for conflict prevention.

95. The review found further that the Organization's capacity to use its leverage to prevent armed conflict in conjunction with other actors is not being fully harnessed. Mechanisms have been put in place to strengthen cooperation with some prevention actors, particularly regional organizations. For other partners, such mechanisms still need to be devised. Unlike other mandates given to the Organization, conflict prevention lacks a permanent forum for regular discussions with the intergovernmental system and expert groups at the policy or normative level. Mindful of the fact that the success of preventive action often depends on confidentiality and quiet diplomacy, we should nonetheless consider the benefits that a platform for regular dialogue among Member States and between them and the United Nations system may yield for our efforts. Although the existing Group of Friends on conflict prevention has proved to be a most useful forum, it may be worthwhile to explore options for a more formal, regular dialogue with interested States. We must act together more deliberately, make the most of our comparative advantages and jointly consider a system of incentives to make preventive action a more compelling choice.

96. I regret to note that, in addition to being insufficient, funding for prevention activities is insecure. Contributions for many prevention activities are voluntary and earmarked for specific projects, thus often precluding long-term prevention activities and urgent ad hoc interventions. Additional challenges arise because of inflexible mechanisms for having access to resources in trust funds. More effective conflict prevention and earlier engagement require a commensurate and more predictable resource base, ideally through assessed contributions. During the 2005/06 budget cycle alone, $5.2 billion was spent on peacekeeping. A fraction of that amount would go a long way towards reducing the costs in terms of the loss of lives, livelihood and property resulting from conflicts. I urge Member States to consider committing themselves to devoting an amount equivalent to a certain

percentage of the annual peacekeeping budget to the prevention of armed conflict. Even an amount equivalent to 2 per cent of what we spend annually on peacekeeping would represent an enormous step forward in investment in prevention that would surely yield real dividends in terms of peace preserved.

97. The above-cited gaps in existing capacity hamper the ability of the United Nations system to use its full potential in conflict prevention. The recommendations set out below seek to address these shortcomings. If we are serious about conflict prevention, we have to better equip the Organization to fulfil its core mandate.

VII. Recommendations

Global, systemic actions to address sources of tension and to strengthen norms and institutions for peace

98. I urge Member States to more comprehensively address the primary sources of tension for conflict-vulnerable regions and countries. Such actions should include, inter alia, stepping up efforts to regulate trade in natural resources that fuel conflict, offering more support to private-sector initiatives on conflict-sensitive business practices, renewing commitments and developing practical mechanisms to reduce illicit flows of small arms and light weapons, finding common ground on preventing the use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS, addressing environmental degradation, paying more attention to the nexus of prevention and migration, redoubling efforts for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and strengthening respect for human rights.

99. I call on Member States to fulfil General Assembly resolution 57/337 by acceding to, ratifying and complying with international human rights, humanitarian and other legal instruments relevant to the prevention of armed conflict.

100. I invite the international community as a whole to more explicitly embrace the "responsibility to prevent", including by exploring and making effective use of peaceful means to assist States in living up to their obligations regarding the protection of their populations.

Country-specific structural actions to address sources of tension and to strengthen norms and institutions for peace

101. I encourage individual Governments to live up to their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to prevent armed conflict and, when disputes or conflicts do arise, to seek solutions by peaceful means. To that end, they should consider ways in which they can strengthen their national capacities for addressing structural risk factors, as suggested in resolution 57/337, and I pledge all possible United Nations support for such efforts.

102. A more robust and strategic approach to assistance in democracy-building, elections and constitutional capacity should be developed, and, to that end, I hope that the two main intergovernmental efforts to advance the principles of democracy — the movement of new or restored democracies and the Community of Democracies — can explore ways to best complement each other and work together. I also welcome and hope for more support from Member States to strengthen United Nations

electoral assistance and constitutional assistance. Further, Member States should continue to support the United Nations Democracy Fund as an innovative and strategic tool to strengthen democratic institutions and practices.

103. I invite Member States to consider creating elements of a national infrastructure for peace, as outlined in the present report, and to make use of available external support, including from the United Nations, in that regard. I draw particular attention to the importance and potential of national dialogue and consensus-building processes and urge those organizing and facilitating such processes to reach out to the broadest possible cross-section of society, including indigenous groups, and to make a special effort to include and reflect the voices of women.

Operational actions to address sources of tension and to strengthen norms and institutions for peace

104. I encourage more creative and constructive use of sanctions as a tool in the conflict prevention toolbox, with due attention to fair and clear procedures. For instance, the Security Council could seek to use the reports of expert groups to engage in more normative actions that could help reduce the exploitation of natural resources and the use of revenues by armed groups, and to channel such revenues towards meeting the legitimate needs of the populations of the countries concerned. As a conflict-prevention measure, the latest report of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see S/2006/53) could serve to guide Member States on the establishment of a tracing system for natural resources.

105. I urge all parties to disputes to make active and early use of the means outlined in Article 33, paragraph 1, of the Charter, namely, to engage in negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation and resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means that the parties may choose, to prevent the escalation of conflict.

Acting in concert

106. I call on all relevant actors, from civil society and individual Governments to regional organizations and the constituent parts of the United Nations system, to accept and act upon the principles of shared vulnerability and mutual responsibility so that effective preventive action can be undertaken at all the levels outlined in the present report.

107. I encourage new and existing organs of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, to deepen their engagement with civil society and with other actors that play important roles in conflict prevention. To this end, I urge Member States to consider innovative means to intensify the dialogue with civil society, for example, by inviting civil society representatives to provide regular briefings to pertinent bodies.

108. I reiterate my call for the speedy implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan for implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and I urge Member States and the United Nations system to pay more attention to preventing gender-based violence.

109. I request the Human Rights Council to include in the implementation of its important new mandate recommendations on specific conflict-prevention measures to Member States, the United Nations system and other actors. In the same vein, I call on the Peacebuilding Commission to provide recommendations on the prevention of the recurrence of conflict.

United Nations capacity

110. To enable the United Nations to live up to its commitments and obligations with respect to conflict prevention, I call on Member States to support a strengthening of its capacity for analysing conflicts. The United Nations also needs support for developing a strategic vision of what the Organization as a whole, working together, can accomplish in the area of prevention. Specifically, I encourage Member States to consider seriously the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services evaluation, which found the Department of Political Affairs to be in need of substantial additional resources. In the absence of any enhanced capacity within the Department, improvements to our strategic leadership and coordination for conflict prevention will not have maximum impact.

111. I call on Member States to support the joint efforts of the wider United Nations system, especially those based on collaboration among its development, humanitarian, human rights and political arms, for the prevention of violent conflict. In particular, I call for greater support for efforts aimed at building Member States' own capacities for the prevention of armed conflict and for mediating the conflicts that development processes inevitably generate.

112. The United Nations system is strengthening its support for Member States' efforts for the implementation of integrated strategies for addressing the root causes of potentially violent conflicts in a sufficiently early and systemic manner. In this context, I invite Member States to support the Interdepartmental Framework for Coordination, an internal mechanism for identifying priorities for structural prevention.

113. The Security Council last year mandated the creation of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, the first United Nations mission to be explicitly charged with building national capacities for conflict prevention. Burundi has now requested a similar integrated office in the aftermath of the current peacekeeping operation. I call on Member States to consider the deployment of these integrated offices in the aftermath of the drawdown of peacekeeping operations, as appropriate.

114. Peacebuilding can be a form of prevention that seeks to pre-empt the relapse into conflict of countries that have emerged from war. Mindful of the experiences in Haiti, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Timor-Leste, I urge Member States to stay the course towards peace and not to end United Nations peace operations prematurely.

115. I encourage Member States to provide predictable financial support for United Nations humanitarian response to avert crises before they lead to conflict, particularly in the areas of food security, health and the needs of children, as well as the response to the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons.

116. I call on Member States and relevant parts of the United Nations system to launch a dialogue on conflict prevention that will feature regular discussions on this

important field of activity and that will draw on the concrete experience of ongoing partnerships between the United Nations system and Member States in this area, specifically with regard to building national capacities for conflict prevention.

117. I invite Member States, further to their recognition of the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General at the 2005 World Summit, to support a strengthened mediation capacity aimed at enhancing the quality of the mediation services that the United Nations can provide to United Nations mediators, the United Nations system and its partners, including Governments, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and private individuals. In this regard, I encourage Member States to build upon the start-up mediation support capacity that was approved earlier.

118. I encourage Member States to consider providing more predictable financial support for conflict-prevention activities. I urge them to consider dedicating an amount equivalent to a certain percentage of the annual peacekeeping budget — say 2 per cent — to the prevention of armed conflict.

Annex

Review of the United Nations system capacity for conflict prevention

A. Introduction

Methodology

In its resolution 57/337 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to "submit a detailed review of the capacity of the United Nations system in the context of the report on the implementation of the present resolution". On the basis of the 39 conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to that resolution, six categories of core prevention activities were identified:

(a) Early warning, information and analysis;

(b) Good offices and mediation;

(c) Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention;

(d) Disarmament and arms control;

(e) Equitable socio-economic development;

(f) Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice.

To ascertain the United Nations system capacity for conflict prevention in these areas, key indicators were identified, including operational capacity, strategic leadership, coordination, knowledge management, normative framework and resources. Data was gathered through desk research, self-assessments by United Nations system partners, interviews, review of responses to the system-wide peacebuilding questionnaire and other pertinent studies and reference materials.

The analysis of the data provided an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the current system and identified gaps. Recommendations on how to strengthen the United Nations system conflict prevention capacity are included in the main body of the report.

Outcomes

The main results of the capacity review are summarized in the matrices below, under the headings "Review of the United Nations system capacity for conflict prevention: key findings" and "Core prevention activities of the United Nations system".

B. Review of the United Nations system capacity for conflict prevention: key findings

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
Operational capacity	Web-based information networks exist for different sectors, as do semi-formalized arrangements for different actors with varying degrees of analytical capacity. There is no system-wide mechanism for early warning and information analysis on conflict prevention.	Capacity includes Secretary-General's good offices, a small mediation capacity that is under development in DPA and sectoral advocacy/mediation work on specific prevention issues.	Policy advice, technical assistance, capacity-building and programming available for governance, electoral assistance, institution-building, public sector, judicial, legal and security sector reform, justice and the rule of law. Awareness-raising and capacity-building activities on culture of peace/prevention.	Technical and substantive assistance available to support intergovernmental processes. Operational support available to provide advocacy, policy guidance, technical assistance, capacity development and training on DDR and arms control issues.	Social cohesion and conflict transformation programmes available, as well as research, advisory services and project support on sustainable development, social, economic, environmental issues, institutional reform and capacity-building.	Promotion of rights-based approach in all programming activities, advisory services and technical assistance available for policy formulation, capacity- and institution-building to foster rule of law and compliance with international legal standards and instruments.
Strategic leadership		DPA as system focal point.	DPA as system focal point for electoral assistance and peacebuilding.	DDA as system focal point.	Isolated efforts to mainstream conflict prevention in development activities.	OHCHR as system focal point.
	No system-wide strategic framework. Country approaches do not integrate conflict prevention systematically.					

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
Coordination	While country-specific coordination has been strengthened within the United Nations system, wider coordination on prevention issues is still lacking. Existing coordination mechanisms include the Framework Team, inter-agency standing committees, interdepartmental task forces and working groups, the Secretary-General's Executive Committees (ECPS, ECHA, Policy Committee), special advisers, envoys and representatives of the Secretary-General, United Nations country teams, peacekeeping missions and peacebuilding support offices, the regional inter-mission cooperation working group, the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) and the Peacebuilding Commission. The United Nations University, the University for Peace, UNIDIR, UNITAR and the United Nations System Staff College provide research and training capacities.					
Knowledge management		Peacemaking database under development (DPA)	Peacebuilding portal-database on conflict prevention and peacebuilding organizations (under development in DESA)	DDA maintains various databases related to multilateral arms regulation and disarmament agreements.		
	No system-wide repository/knowledge management for conflict prevention issues. Individual approaches by each partner (ad hoc to systematic, mostly sectoral or per institution).					
Normative framework	No designated forum to address prevention issues systematically with Member States.			DDA services relevant intergovernmental bodies.		
Resources	The current system is largely based on voluntary contributions/trust funds. Resources explicitly earmarked for conflict prevention are lacking, particularly in regard to funding for "pulse-taking" travel and field visits. In general, prevention activities that seek to avoid an escalation of a crisis receive far less in resources than post-conflict peacebuilding activities. Rules and procedures for access to resources do not provide for the requisite flexibility to address evolving situations in a timely fashion. The current arrangements are targeted to specific efforts, activities and countries, yet are not conducive to the long-term investment that would be required for effective programming and immediate initiatives, if necessary.					

C. Core prevention activities of the United Nations system

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
System-wide	The *IASC Humanitarian Early Warning Service (HEWSweb)* establishes a common platform for humanitarian early warnings and forecasts for natural hazards and socio-political developments worldwide (partners: WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, OCHA, ICRC, IFRC, UNHCR, WHO, FAO, WMO, IOM, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response)		*United Nations University* *University for Peace*: teaching, research, post-graduate training on matters related to peace	*Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA)*		
DESA			*Institution-building/public sector reform*: assists Governments in maintaining basic services and reconstructing governance and public administration for peaceful and sustainable development. Provides policy advice and technical support towards public sector reform, decentralization, strengthening of parliamentary services, anti-corruption measures, inclusive governance processes		Undertakes research and policy analysis on sustainable development, social, economic and environmental issues, gender mainstreaming; provides advisory services to Governments on policy planning, public administration, infrastructure development and programming activities	

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
			United Nations Information Network in Public Administration and Finance: fosters knowledge sharing in sound public policies, effective public administration and civil services through capacity-building and cooperation among United Nations Member States. Supports the implementation of *national conflict prevention capacity-building strategies* and programme development to reduce political and social tensions and strengthen local skills and institutions to mitigate and mediate destructive conflict (jointly with UNDP, DPA and OHCHR)			
DDA			*Judicial and legal reform*: undertakes advocacy work, research, technical assistance, project implementation support, capacity development and training to improve firearms legislation and strengthen law enforcement capabilities (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean).	Serves as focal point for the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism (CASA) and for the open-ended Group of Interested States on Practical Disarmament Measures, chairs the Steering Group on Disarmament and Development. *Standard setting, international monitoring*: provides technical and substantive assistance to various intergovernmental	

Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
			disarmament bodies (Conference on Disarmament, Disarmament Commission, First Committee, United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters); services United Nations conferences. Issues reports on Register of Conventional Arms and standardized instrument for international reporting of military expenditures, maintains databases related to Mine Ban Convention and signatories, ratification and accession by States to multilateral arms regulation and disarmament agreements. *Security sector reform/law enforcement*: undertakes advocacy work, research, technical assistance, project implementation support, capacity development and training to improve firearms legislation and knowledge management capacities. Provides technical and substantive assistance to		

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
				groups of experts studying the manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons. *Awareness-raising*: undertakes research, organizes symposiums, seminars and round tables on disarmament and non-proliferation issues in collaboration with UNIDIR, academia and NGOs.		
DPA	Information is gathered through research, news monitoring, liaison with United Nations field presences, exchange of information and consultations with Member States, regional organizations, civil society, academia, the United Nations system; field visits and fact-finding missions. *Peacemaking*: developed United Nations peacemaker website, a repository of information geared towards peacemakers and their staff from the United Nations and other institutions as they prepare for	United Nations system focal point for conflict prevention and mediation. *Good offices*: backstops the Secretary-General's good offices missions, monitors and assesses global political developments; advises the Secretary-General on actions that could advance the cause of peace; provides support and guidance to United Nations envoys and political missions in the field; facilitates dialogue processes, development of conflict-sensitive governance mechanisms, including in the area of human rights; facilitates implementation of political agreements.	United Nations system focal point for *electoral assistance* and *post-conflict peacebuilding*. *Institution-building*: supports the establishment of viable government institutions, implementation of peace agreements, constitution-making. Facilitation of talks between opposing factions, needs assessments, technical assistance, research, analysis and policy advice, capacity development and training. *Joint UNDP/DPA Programme on Building National Capacity for Conflict Prevention*: assists United Nations country teams and national actors in select countries by providing political analysis,			*Human rights*: supports OHCHR activities to prevent human rights abuses, advocacy for international human rights standards and instruments, and awareness-raising for equal rights of women. *Transitional justice*: provides policy advice to United Nations system and national authorities, guidance on aspects of peace agreement that involve transitional justice mechanisms, participates in norm-setting, facilitates national

Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
mediation to achieve peace agreements that provide a basis for sustainable peace.	supports initiatives to strengthen national reconciliation. *Mediation*: establishes a small dedicated mediation support capacity to serve as a central repository for peacemaking experience and act as a clearing house for lessons learned and best practices, coordinates training and guidance for mediators.	coordination, capacity-building and mainstreaming of conflict prevention. Jointly with UNDP, deploys *"peace and development advisers" to assist host countries and UNDP country offices in analysing, and building national capacities for addressing the root causes of violent conflict.* Supports implementation of *national conflict prevention capacity-building strategies* and programme development (jointly with DESA, UNDP and OHCHR). *Electoral assistance*: system-wide focal point for electoral assistance. Receives and reviews requests from Member States, undertakes needs assessments, provides political and technical analysis, collaborates closely with other United Nations departments and agencies, particularly DPKO and UNDP, in the design and implementation of electoral assistance projects and the electoral components of peacekeeping missions, maintains a roster of international electoral experts.			reconciliation initiatives.

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
			Peacebuilding support offices: DPA-led field operations provide political analysis and a forward platform for preventive diplomacy to help prevent and resolve conflict or build lasting peace in nations emerging from civil wars. Provides capacity-building for local women to encourage and facilitate their participation in national conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.			
DPKO	DPKO *Situation Centre* links United Nations Headquarters and field missions. It monitors situations worldwide 24/7, especially with regard to deteriorating security environments, gathers and reports information from various sources to debrief senior managers, provides crisis response and conducts reviews on the security of missions. Gathering of lessons learned and good practices.	Senior mission leadership in peacekeeping operations provides good offices and mediation, as appropriate, to advance peace processes.	*Institution-building*: offers technical advice and support to assist constitution-making processes, supports the establishment of truth and reconciliation mechanisms. Under executive mandates, assumes civil administration functions. *Electoral assistance*: supports, in close cooperation with and guidance from DPA, implementation of elections as part of peacekeeping missions, provides technical assistance, policy advice and capacity-building. *Security sector reform*: provides support to national law enforcement agencies and assistance for their reform, rebuilding and restructuring. Under	Chair of inter-agency working group on DDR. Provides technical assistance on DDR in peace negotiations, technical assessments and advisory services. Develops and implements DDR and mine action programmes as part of peacekeeping mandates.	Conducts assessment missions to identify context-specific assistance and capacity development in collaboration with United Nations system partners. Provides advice, technical and operational assistance for policy, legal and management reform and gender mainstreaming.	*Law enforcement*: provides support to national law enforcement agencies and assistance for their reform, rebuilding and restructuring. Under executive mandates, assumes law enforcement responsibility. *Transitional justice*: in the context of peacekeeping operations, supports transitional justice mechanisms and truth commissions and undertakes forensic investigations. Under executive mandates, assumes

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
			executive mandates, assumes law enforcement responsibilities. *Judicial and legal reform*: provides support to peacekeeping operations on judicial and legal reform issues, develops/implements training programmes on criminal law, criminal procedure, the legal profession, ethics, etc. Under executive mandates, assumes function of the judiciary and operates other rule of law institutions. *Institution-building*: supports the establishment of provisional institutions. *Culture of prevention*: supports reconciliation programmes and confidence-building measures that provide economic, social and recreational opportunities to communities in post-conflict societies and prevent resumption of violence.			administration of judicial system as appropriate.
FAO	The Rehabilitation Division of FAO coordinates emergency responses for agricultural relief/rehabilitation arising from conflict situations. It draws on several mechanisms to		*Institution-building*: supports establishment of inclusive institutions and legislative frameworks. Conducts research, needs assessments, programming, technical assistance, capacity-building, training.		Assists in formulation of national policies and strategies aimed at creating a favourable economic environment for food security and agricultural rural development, supports capacity-building and knowledge-sharing on	

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
	gather and analyse data. *The Global Information and Early Warning System* issues short reports on the food supply and agricultural situation in vulnerable countries or regions and alerts the international community. Often the data are based on rapid evaluation missions or crop and food supply assessment missions. *The Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System* documents evolving crises worldwide. *Member of HEWSweb.*				good practices and tools for inclusive policies and legislative frameworks regarding land tenure, land access, sustainable rural livelihood and rural institutions.	
OCHA	*Early Warning Unit* aims to improve the humanitarian community's capacity to identify potential crises. In collaboration with desks, field offices and IASC partners, produces early warning analytical reports and alerts in response to rapidly deteriorating situations. Translates early warning analysis into concrete action to	Promotes a culture of mediation among Member States through *country-specific and thematic briefings of the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) to the Security Council* on protection of civilians issues. Through ERC, regularly *advises humanitarian coordinators on engagement with armed groups* and action to	Promotes a culture of prevention by organizing *thematic and country-specific workshops on issues related to protection* of civilians. Through *Internet Forum on Crisis Prevention*, developed case studies which show where humanitarian action has had a preventive effect.			In collaboration with humanitarian partners, supported the Security Council in the articulation of *resolution 1674 (2006)*, which strengthens the overall framework for the protection of civilians and complements existing human Rights and international humanitarian law.

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
	prevent, mitigate and prepare for crises and disasters (a checklist defines actions to be taken at various stages of crisis). *ReliefWeb* (www.reliefweb.int), leading online gateway to information on humanitarian emergencies and disasters, provides humanitarian information on countries of concern. *Member of HEWSweb.*	address impunity and mitigate security threats. In collaboration with IASC partners, produced a *manual and guidelines for mediating and negotiating humanitarian access with armed groups.*				
OHCHR	Special rapporteurs provide reports on selected country situations.		Advocates for the observance of human rights in electoral and governance processes, supports strengthening of the rule of law and the delivery of public services. Encourages institutional reform and a rights-based, participatory approach in legislative processes. Conducts research, policy training, awareness-raising. Supports the implementation of *national conflict prevention capacity-building strategies* and programme development (jointly with DESA, DPA and UNDP).		Supports work of special rapporteurs regarding the rights to health, adequate housing, education, food.	United Nations-system focal point for attention to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. *Advocacy*: promotes rights-based approach and the rule of law. Supports human rights defenders, truth and reconciliation mechanisms, human rights education and training, monitors human rights situations and investigates alleged rights violations.

Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	***Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice***
					Judicial and legal reform: provides policy advice and capacity-building through technical cooperation programmes in support of the administration of justice, production of methodological tools for sectors. Supports/ backstops special rapporteurs and assists countries in transition in ratifying human rights treaties. *Institution-building*: strengthens national capacity to address frequent causes of conflict, builds institutions to prevent deterioration of basic living conditions. *Law enforcement*: provides expert advice on development of guidelines, codes of conduct, SOPs in compliance with international human rights standards, provides training. *Transitional justice*: offers technical

	Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
						assistance and advisory services to field presences and national authorities on transitional justice mechanisms, development of rule of law tools, institutional capacity-building, vetting and monitoring of legal systems.
UNAIDS					Advances global HIV/AIDS response through advocacy, strategic information and technical support, tracking, monitoring and evaluation, civil society engagement and mobilization of resources (partners: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank).	
UNDP	*Crisis Prevention and Recovery Electronic Network* (mechanism for sharing knowledge, expertise and resources between agencies, external partners), Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery knowledge management tools,		*Joint UNDP/DPA Programme on Building National Capacity for Conflict Prevention* (see above). Jointly with DPA, deploys *"peace and development advisers" (see above).* *Institution-building*: provides technical support, advisory	*Capacity-building*: provides needs assessments, technical and financial assistance for DDR activities, institutional and community-based capacity-building, reintegration support and community-based armed violence reduction	*Economic and social development*: sensitizes political actors to the development agenda, including Millennium Development Goals, poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, etc. *Capacity-building*: supports area-based development programmes;	*Security sector reform*: provides advisory services for national authorities on justice and security sector reform (JSSR) and inclusion of JSSR issues in early planning and implementation of

Early warning, information and analysis	*Good offices and mediation*	*Democracy, good governance and culture of prevention*	*Disarmament and arms control*	*Equitable socio-economic development*	*Human rights, humanitarian law and international justice*
mission reports and bureau-wide briefings. *Member of HEWSweb.*		services and capacity-building towards institutional and civil service reforms, parliamentary development, enhanced public participation, and assistance to administrative, financial and oversight bodies. Implements *national conflict prevention capacity-building strategies* and programme development (jointly with DESA, DPA and OHCHR). *Justice and rule of law*: supports initiatives to provide enhanced capacity of and access to justice, strengthens/develops conflict resolution and accountability mechanisms and national capacities for basic security, good governance and the rule of law. Technical assistance, project design, financial and implementation support, capacity development, training. *Culture of prevention*: supports training and capacity-building on conflict resolution, human rights and civic value education. Supports capacity-building in the media to foster participatory governance processes and culture of prevention.	programmes, supports the collection and destruction of weapons. *Institution-building*: provides assistance in development of legislation, regulatory regimes and small arms and light weapons control, mapping exercises, advocacy work for weapons control.	employment creation, community-driven development; rehabilitation and provision of basic social services; advocates for land access and property rights. *Institution-building*: provides technical assistance for decentralization, local governance and urban/rural development processes; capacity development, especially for local government planning and fiscal management; advocacy, communication and public information; promotes and brokers dialogue.	integrated peace missions. *Capacity-building*: provides policy advice and technical support for national authorities, capacity development of institutions and individuals. Undertakes advocacy, communication and public information work, promotes and brokers dialogue, applies a rights-based approach to development programming. *Transitional justice and peacebuilding*: supports truth commissions and community reconciliation mechanisms, develops context-appropriate methodologies, offers technical and administrative support, facilitates consultation processes with the population.

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UNEP	*Division for Early Warning and Assessment* monitors issues regarding environmental degradation and threats. UNEP is partner in a range of *environmental information networks* (*ENRIN, GEO, GRID, Infoterra and AEIN*) that deal with some aspect of environmental data and information, from collection and management to access, exchange and dissemination.		*Institution-building*: strengthens national and regional environmental or environment-related institutions, advocates for environmental legislation and inclusion of environmental aspects in national sustainable development plans, provides environmental assessments, information gathering, analysis and monitoring services, supports confidence-building measures relating to environmental issues.			
UNFPA			*Basic services*: provides technical assistance and financial support for capacity-building and broader access to national and local level health-care services, particularly for women, advocacy for policy formulation on basic social services, support for data collection and analysis, organizational support for women's human rights through legal and judicial reform, gender mainstreaming and prevention and protection from gender-based violence, capacity-building through standard-setting, human resources development, infrastructure development and training.	*Basic services*: fosters national dialogue on the needs of women, girls and vulnerable populations in a DDR context and gender sensitive policy development, provides technical support on women's and reproductive health issues, HIV/AIDS awareness, data gathering on sexual and gender-based violence, capacity-building and training for public administration and civil society networks.	*Capacity-building*: provides technical support, training and skill development opportunities to health professionals; supports women's and gender mainstreaming programmes at the community level; supports rehabilitation of physical infrastructure for the delivery of basic social services.	Advocates for gender mainstreaming and rights-based approach in judicial and legal reform processes, provides technical advice, financial support, capacity-building, training and outreach activities.

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UN-Habitat					*Capacity-building*: provides support to national Governments, local authorities and civil society in strengthening their capacity in managing human-made and natural disasters affecting human settlements (i.e., security sector, governance, DDR, human rights, local governance, civil society, financial transparency). Operational/technical cooperation, research, global programming addressing all elements of sustainable human settlements (land tenure, shelter, urban/local governance, urban safety and security, environment, training/capacity-building, etc.)	
UNHCR	Annual internal protection reports (prepared by offices in the field for each country covered) contain detailed analysis on human rights situations and the status of refugees hosted in the country and other persons of		Offers policy advice and technical assistance to reduce situations of forced displacement by encouraging States and other institutions to create conditions conducive to the protection of human rights and peaceful resolution of disputes.	Supports DPKO on protection mandates, e.g., regarding the implementation of programmes on DDR, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, mine clearance, small arms and light weapons.	*Basic services*: supports access to shelter, water and sanitation, health services and basic nutrition. Advocates for education as a basic human right, provides constructive life skills of peace and conflict minimization and prevention to reach	Supports development and implementation of international law related to or affecting refugees and other persons of concern, advocacy for respect for and protection and fulfilment of the rights of refugees and other persons of

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	concern. They also include a chapter dedicated to human rights, early warning and prevention. *Member of HEWSweb.* Early warning tool *Action Alerts* consolidates information on pre-crisis situations and ongoing emergencies gathered in the field and at headquarters and on preparedness activities. Commissions, in partnership with Write Net, *Action Alert Situation Analysis Papers*.		*Legal and judicial systems*: advocates for refugees and IDPs to create conditions for return to their country/area of origin, including legislation/reform of the legislative framework on property rights, amnesty provisions, acquisition of nationality. Offers policy advice to Governments on strategies for returnee integration and compliance with international refugee law and IDP guiding principles, technical advice on legal, social and economic reintegration. *Culture of prevention*: supports confidence-building measures related to refugee populations and peace education programmes that teach and/or enhance the skills of constructive, non-violent behaviour in refugee and returnee communities.	Develops longer-term strategies to address the problems of unemployed youth and supports effective DDR and socio-economic recovery programmes.	refugee populations (including peace education).	concern, direct protection and assistance measures where national authorities are unwilling or unable to meet their obligation to protect, capacity-building for effective asylum systems. Supports the creation of conditions conducive to the sustainable return of refugees to their country of origin and IDPs to their place of origin. Monitors treatment of returnees and respect for their human rights.
UNICEF	An intranet-based *Early Warning-Early Action System* consolidates information on pre-crisis situations, ongoing emergencies and state of preparedness, gathered in the field and at headquarters. *Member of HEWSweb.*	*Mainstreaming of child rights*: joint working group convened by UNICEF, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict, DPKO and DPA seeks to incorporate child protection in the United Nations peacemaking, peacekeeping and	*Culture of prevention*: undertakes joint UNICEF/World Bank project on promoting social cohesion and conflict prevention, which empowers women by improving their participation in the political process and strengthening their role in civil society.	*Capacity-building*: provides policy advice and advocacy work on international norms and standards, technical advice and implementation of child-sensitive DDR programmes. Offers financial support and capacity-building for international and national	*Basic services*: promotes access to education and basic health care; provides cost-effective health care interventions at home and at basic health facilities, supports HIV/AIDS prevention and care programming.	Provides assistance to Member States in implementing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2002). *Judicial and legal reform*: provides

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	An *event database* integrates human security-related event data and information from multiple sources, including United Nations partners and NGOs, to enhance early detection and analysis of developing trends that may lead to humanitarian crises, including violent conflict.	peacebuilding mandates. *Skill-building*: provides civil society capacity development and training in conflict mediation, especially in the context of juvenile justice mechanisms.		NGOs to ensure delivery of appropriate and child-sensitive services.		technical assistance, policy advice to Governments, offers direct programme implementation support on juvenile justice and support for legal reforms that develop children's codes and child-specific legislation that conform with international standards.
UNIDIR				Promotes creative thinking and dialogue on disarmament and security challenges, tactical nuclear weapons, refugee security, computer warfare, regional confidence-building measures and small arms. Undertakes research, supports networking, assists in policy formulation in collaboration with Member States, the United Nations system, NGOs, academia and civil society.		
UNIFEM	Staff from regional offices informally provide information on relevant developments. Early warning pilot projects are under development.	*Skill-building*: provides capacity development and training for women in conflict mediation, negotiation skills, basic awareness training for civil society on constitutional and legal issues.	*Gender mainstreaming*: advocates for women's rights in constitutional processes, legal reform and policymaking, supports regional organizations in engendering policy and planning processes.	With particular focus on women, offers training on weapons collection strategies, capacity-building workshops for civil society leaders, media outreach work, information sharing and		

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			Implements gender justice programmes, provides technical assistance, policy advice, financial support, capacity development and training.	network development, supports development of technical expertise on gender and DDR, research and policy development.		
UNITAR		*Skill-building*: undertakes research and training on conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation, offers programmes in peacemaking and preventive diplomacy. **Conducts programme for briefing and debriefing special and personal representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General (exchange of lessons, creation of institutional memory).**	*Institution-building*: supports skill-building of government officials, civil servants and academia. Conducts training on public policymaking, strategic planning, ethics in public service, team-building and coalition-building, accounting and budgeting.			
UNODC			*Judicial and legal reform*: promotes the application of international standards and norms, offers policy advice and assistance in policy formulation, justice reform programme implementation, capacity-building and training for judiciary and law-enforcement personnel, social workers, corrections personnel, probation officers, United Nations staff. *Law enforcement*: provides technical needs assessment in law enforcement and associated sectors, technical			**Custodian of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.** *Normative work*: standard-setting and development of policy and training materials related to the implementation of international standards in juvenile justice. Development of model legislation (e.g., on proceeds of crime) and model

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			and policy advice to Member States in illicit drug law enforcement and measures to combat organized crime. Offers donor coordination, project assistance, training, standard-setting and benchmarking (headquarters and 22 regional offices).			treaties (e.g., on mutual assistance in criminal matters, extradition). *Institution-building and capacity development*: programme activities address justice reform, juvenile justice, penal reform, restorative justice and alternatives to imprisonment, prevention of and fight against serious crimes such as drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, corruption, money-laundering, trafficking in human beings.
United Nations System Staff College	Conducts training on the theme "*Early warning and preventive measures: building United Nations capacity*", jointly with DPA (since 1998, 8 headquarters and 44 field workshops, in total training over 1,650 participants from the United Nations system, civil society, host governments, selected donors and regional organizations).	Conducts training on the theme "*Early warning and preventive measures: building United Nations capacity*", jointly with DPA.	Conducts training on the theme "*Early warning and preventive measures: building United Nations capacity*", jointly with DPA.			

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World Bank	Applies Conflict Analysis Framework when developing strategies, policies and programmes. This process includes identification and analysis of key factors that affect conflict and a risk screening based on nine indicators.		Provides funding for institutional reform and capacity-building projects to establish functioning local government systems, improve inclusiveness, transparency and accountability of public financial management.	Provides funding and technical assistance in support of mine action, DDR programmes and reintegration of displaced populations.	Provides funding for infrastructure, the promotion of economic recovery, evaluation of social sector needs, support for institutional capacity-building, revitalization of local communities and restoration of social capital. Supports programming for human development initiatives (e.g., health, education, food security, population).	Supports programming and capacity-building on rule of law initiatives, legal reform, judicial and other dispute resolution mechanisms.
World Food Programme	Co-chairs with UNICEF the *IASC sub-working group on preparedness and contingency planning*. *Member of HEWSweb*.			Works in post-conflict recovery, particularly through social and economic reintegration measures and food assistance for DDR programmes.	Provides vulnerability and food security assessments, emergency food needs assessments, early warning and preparedness and food assistance programming, short-term food distribution, programmes on nutrition and mother/child health, supplementary, therapeutic, vulnerable group and school feeding.	
WHO	*Member of HEWSweb*.				Undertakes needs assessment, coordination and capacity-building; enhances government capacity and	

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					preparedness; runs Health as a Bridge to Peace project, a multidimensional policy and planning framework that supports health workers in delivering health programmes and health sector development.	
Special advisers and other initiatives	The *Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide* works to develop a system for early warning of situations potentially involving massive violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.		The *Special Adviser on the Alliance of Civilizations* seeks to cultivate peaceful coexistence and respect for different beliefs and points of view. *Messengers of Peace* undertake awareness-raising and outreach activities to promote the ideals of the United Nations. The *Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace* undertakes outreach and advocacy work in the world of sport to promote the ideals of the United Nations.		The *Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Migration* provides advisory services and advocacy on migration and social and economic development. *Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons* serves as independent expert and works in close cooperation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA and UNHCR.	